

Date of Hearing: July 16, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 482 (Weber Pierson) – As Amended June 23, 2025

Policy Committee: Local Government

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires each city and county to electronically submit to the Secretary of State (SOS) no more than 120 days after a general election an updated list of local elected or appointed officials for publication in the roster of state and local public officials.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Potential General Fund administrative savings to SOS due to avoided workload related to requesting information from local governments.
- 2) Likely minor costs to cities and counties to submit updated lists of local officials to the Secretary of State within 120 days of a general election. While local costs could be eligible for state reimbursement, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates, the information cities and counties must report to SOS is readily available, and costs to comply would not likely meet the threshold to seek state reimbursement.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

This proposal will help facilitate regular and systematic publication of the Cal Roster. In addition to improving the accuracy of official records, this measure promotes greater transparency and accessibility for the public. Accurate and up-to-date local government data is essential for facilitating communication between state agencies and local officials, ensuring accountability. By mandating that local governments submit updated rosters within 120 days of each local general election, the legislation aims to create a more responsive and accurate public record.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law requires SOS to compile, publish, and distribute a roster of the state and local public officials (known as Cal Roster), whenever the Legislature appropriates funds for that purpose. Existing law requires the SOS to distribute this roster, free of charge, to state and local offices, as specified, and to public libraries and individuals upon request.

SOS collects information from local agencies through an online survey intended to capture changes in the local rosters of city, town, and county officials, including administrators, department executives, and elected representatives. SOS requests responses from local jurisdictions by the end of April, but no statutory deadline exists by which local agencies must respond. SOS estimates that at most 35% of local governments submit information in a timely fashion without further requests for information.

According to California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, sponsor of this measure:

While current law requires SOS to publish this information annually, it does not place a corresponding requirement on local governments to submit updated rosters, nor does it establish a deadline for doing so. As a result, publication of the Cal Roster is often delayed as our office must repeatedly follow up with individual jurisdictions that fail to respond to the annual data request.

This bill addresses this issue by requiring local governments to submit rosters of their elected and appointed officials no more than 120 days after each local general election. It is unclear how SOS will enforce this requirement, as there are no penalties specified in the bill for a local government's failure to submit the information within that timeframe.

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